

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 20, 2005. Claims 1-11 have been canceled without prejudice to disclaimer of subject matter, and Claims 12-21 have been added. Claims 12, 16, 19 and 20 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. We suggest revising the objected to recitation to read “a decision device adapted to decide whether or not the information for describing a second screen image, which displays in the Web client status information of a computer or a network apparatus equipped with the Web server, is stored in the Web server and has been updated.” The new claims have been carefully drafted with an eye to ensuring that they conform fully to the requirements of Section 112, second paragraph, with special attention to the points raised in paragraph 3 of the Office Action. It is believed that the rejection under Section 112, second paragraph, has been obviated, and its withdrawal is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 6-9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,594,697 (Praitis) in view of United States Patent 6,028,838 (Yamamura), and Claims 2-5 and 10, as being unpatentable over *Praitis* in view of *Yamamura* and in further view U.S. Patent 6,415,313 (Yamada). The newly presented independent claims are believed to be clearly allowable over those patents, and the rest of the art of record, for at least the reasons set out below.

As is described in the application, the present invention relates to network systems in which access to certain settings on a server must be denied to most users in the

interest of ensuring that the settings, made by an authorized administrator, are not inadvertently changed by someone without authorization. In conventional systems, however, the amount of information provided to the user by means of an error code is very scanty, and it would be desirable to provide the user with a more-detailed explanation that is usual about the reason for such a denial of access.

Independent Claim 12 is directed to a network-connectable apparatus that comprises a judging device, adapted to judge whether or not access by another apparatus should be restricted, and a detecting device, adapted to detect a predetermined request from the other apparatus. Also provided are a discrimination device, adapted to discriminate if information corresponding to information cached by the other apparatus is updated, in accordance with the detection by the detecting device, and a sending device that is adapted selectively to execute, in accordance with the judgment by the judging device, a first or a second sending process. The first of these processes involves sending first information to the other apparatus in accordance with the discrimination by the discrimination device, while in the second, second information is sent to the other apparatus regardless of whether updating has been discriminated by the discrimination device.

Among other notable features of the apparatus of Claim 12 is the ability selectively to execute either the first sending process, in which first information is sent to the other apparatus in accordance with the discrimination as to whether the information corresponding to information cached by the other apparatus is updated, or a second sending process, of sending a second information to the other apparatus regardless of that discrimination.

By this means, the apparatus of Claim 12 provides a user at the other

apparatus with as much information as the system administrators wish as to the reason for the denial of access, and the content of the information can be changed as often as is wished.

Praitis relates to a client system in which it is intended to provide a user with more user-friendly error messages than the purely technical ones standard in http. In the *Praitis* system, if an error message returned to the browser is not considered user-friendly, the browser replaces the page with its own error message. At the very least, Applicant submits that nothing has been found, or pointed out, in *Praitis* that would teach or suggest the judging device recited in Claim 12, and from paragraph 6 of the Office Action, it is understood that the Examiner agrees with Applicant as to this point. Moreover, since *Praitis* lacks the judging device, a fortiori, nothing in that patent could teach or suggest the recited sending device, which operates based on the judgment made by the judging device. Since no judging device as recited in Claim 12 is in the *Praitis* system, no such judgment result is produced or used by anything in *Praitis*. Moreover, even apart from the recitation that the sending device of Claim 12 operates based on the judgment from the judging device, nothing has been found or pointed out in *Praitis* that would teach or suggest selectively executing either a first sending process, of sending first information to another apparatus in accordance with a discrimination by a discrimination device, or a second sending process, of sending second information to the other apparatus regardless of whether updating has been discriminated. For all these reasons, it is believed to be clear that Claim 12 is allowable over *Praitis* taken alone.

Yamamura relates to a navigation apparatus in which is used a service selection menu that reflects the result of a determination as to whether or not each of plural

service providers can be connected to a user terminal at each of a plurality of quality levels of service. Even if that is deemed *arguendo* to constitute a judging device as recited in Claim 12 (which Applicant does not concede), however, neither that nor anything else found or pointed out in that patent is believed to teach or suggest the sending device of Claim 12, as discussed above. Accordingly, even if *Yamamura* is combined with *Praitis* in the fashion proposed in the Office Action, and even assuming for argument's sake that the proposed combination would be a proper one, the result would not meet the terms of Claim 12, which is therefore deemed to be clearly allowable over those patents.

Independent Claim 16 is directed to a network-connectable apparatus that comprises a judging device, adapted to judge whether or not access by another apparatus should be restricted, and a detection device, adapted to detect time information related to information possessed by the other apparatus. Also provided are a discrimination device, adapted to discriminate whether information corresponding to information cached by the other apparatus is updated, in accordance with the detection by the detection device, and a sending device adapted to send either first information, or second information, to the other apparatus, as follows. In a case in which access by the other apparatus is not restricted, the first information is sent to the other apparatus in accordance with a discrimination made by the discriminating device, while in a case in which access by the other apparatus is restricted, the second information to the other apparatus regardless of the result of the discrimination made by the discriminating device.

Among other notable features of the apparatus of Claim 16, therefore, is that, in a case where access by the other apparatus is not restricted, the first information is sent to the other apparatus in accordance with the discrimination as to whether the

information corresponding to the information cached by the other apparatus is updated, while in a case where access by the other apparatus is restricted, there is instead sent the second information, regardless of the result of updating.

As discussed above in connection with Claim 12, Applicant submits that nothing in either *Praitis* or *Yamamura* would even hint at selectively executing either a first sending process, of sending first information to another apparatus in accordance with a discrimination as to whether information corresponding to information cached by the other apparatus is updated, or a second sending process, of sending second information to the other apparatus regardless of such discrimination, as recited in Claim 16. Accordingly, Claim 16 also is believed to be clearly allowable over those two patents.

Each of the other independent claims is a method claim corresponding to one or the other of the independent claims discussed above, and is believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as are presented above in connection with the corresponding apparatus claims.

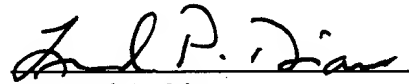
A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Leonard P. Diana", written over a horizontal line.

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